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## **Negotiating Air: Cultural Perceptions of Greenhouse Gases**

My PhD-Project investigates the local effects of, and perspectives on, the global network of emissions trading. Since the Kyoto Protocol, emissions trading is counted as one of the central tools to fight global warming on an international scale and has been in continuous political debate ever since. Emissions trading did not stay a purely political idea for long, but has since been implemented economically across the globe in various communities and institutions.

With my project, I want to examine how greenhouse gasses (GHGs) function as social agents within the networks of emissions trading and compensation payments. These connections link local interactions to places, times and agents elsewhere. I trace the path of the gas as a tradable good, as a metaphor, and as an idea along these connections. This involves studying how hierarchies are negotiated, how knowledge evolves and how it is passed on between indigenous communities, offsetting companies, head-offices of multinational corporations or political institutions.

I want to show what kind of alternative accounts are established and in which cultural narratives they are grounded. For selected nodes/positions/localities in the network, I will investigate a set of core questions:

1. How do people perceive nature as a biological CO<sub>2</sub> storage?
2. Which economic importance does the monetary value of GHGs have and how does this influence the respective perception?
3. How are chances and risks connected to GHGs and how does this evaluation influence people's behavior and decisions?
4. How does the fact of "being related" as a community or organization due to the monetization of GHGs generate dependencies and hierarchies, and how are they negotiated?